



# Diagnosing A Crisis: Affordable Medicine

# "The soaring costs of prescription drugs are jeopardizing the health of millions of Americans."

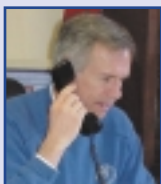
– Bart Gordon

## The Symptoms Of A Dilemma

- Spending on prescription drugs increased more than 17% last year, contributing to the skyrocketing cost of health care in America.
- Americans regularly pay up to twice as much as other countries for the same drug that was made in the United States.
- On average, the uninsured pay twice as much for their prescription drugs than do the big HMOs.
- Because Medicare does not cover prescription drugs, as many as 1 in 8 seniors are forced to choose between buying medicine or buying groceries. In fact, 27 percent of seniors have no drug coverage at all.



# Bart Gordon – Staying In Touch



Americans are shouldering more than their fair share of the costs to develop and produce life-saving medications. People in other countries are charged much lower prices for the same drugs. That's inherently unfair, especially for our elderly and those who are uninsured.

I have been working with my colleagues in Congress on this difficult situation. Solutions to this critical problem should include:

- Changing Food and Drug Administration rules to allow a person to purchase from Canada a legally prescribed drug for personal use. This could reduce the costs for the uninsured by as much as 30 to 40 percent.
- Adding a voluntary prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program, with affordable premiums and meaningful coverage.
- Drafting legislation to allow more affordable generic versions of brand-name drugs to get to the market sooner, which, studies have shown, could reduce costs by one-third.

Tell me what you think ought to be done on this matter, or any other issue that concerns you, by calling me on May 9 and 10 at my special toll-free number. By dialing this number you can talk to me free of charge. The best advice I get, after all, comes from the people back home in Middle Tennessee.

Stay in touch,

*Bart*

## Call Your Congressman

### ***Bart Wants To Hear From You***

### **1-866-852-8949**

**Thursday • May 9 • 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.**

**Friday • May 10 • 9 a.m. until 12 noon**

***The call is free, but the number is temporary and will only be activated for these two days.***